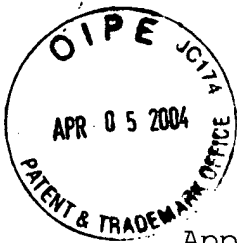


Single

1631



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/983,020  
Applicant : Steven W. HOMANS et al.  
Filed : October 22, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1631  
Examiner : Michael L. Borin  
  
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Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 7728

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated  
January 6, 2004, Applicants submit the following amendment and  
response.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 5.